

Personal Statement – Professor Jo Martin MA MB BS PhD MA FRCPath

The Royal College of Pathologists brings together some of the most powerful skill sets, knowledge and experience in healthcare. I have seen how influential it can be and how patients can benefit from its work. But it can do even more...

I am applying for this role because I want national and international leaders from all healthcare areas coming to the College for advice on what works and how to solve their own problems. I want the College on the front foot in government and health services, saying 'here's how we can help' and 'look at how great this is'. I want trainees clamouring to be pathologists. We can champion research and innovation and the great advances that our profession make. I am committed to pathology leading the way, and the role of pathologists in patient care, system design, scientific advances, and developing people. I will bring passion and experience to the role.

I qualified via Cambridge and London Hospital Medical College, PhD University of London and Kings Fund programme MA in Leadership. I am Professor of Pathology at Queen Mary University of London, and a renal histopathologist, with subspecialist expertise in neuromuscular gut disease. I lead education and training across 16,000 healthcare staff at Barts Health NHS Trust and am executive host lead for the NIHR CLRN North Thames and our CLAHRC.

I have worked across pathology, research, education and healthcare management with acute, primary care and community services. I have run clinical and diagnostic departments and acted as Medical Director and subsequently Chief Medical Officer at Barts Health NHS Trust. I sat on Trust Board through mergers, regulatory, clinical and financial issues, all in public. I have served on many bodies, including work for Research Councils, Charities, Pathology Societies, Universities, and the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs Committee.

As National Clinical Director of Pathology NHS England 2013-16, I developed deep appreciation of national issues across pathology, saw great practice, and really appreciated the professional skills and wider expertise pathologists can offer. I worked across disciplines and wider systems, working with the College President and officers and attending Council, as well as National Transfusion Committee work, specialised and local commissioning, quality assurance, genetics, digital pathology, national laboratory medicines catalogue, leadership development and networks.

Pathology faces far-reaching challenges including changes in the shape of organisations, rising workload and severe recruitment problems in departments. Pressures for trainees are acute, as are risks of reducing education budgets. The College will play a key role in maintaining standards of service and training quality and protecting resources needed to develop future generations of pathology professionals.

At this time, with such great change and emphasis on savings and consolidation, the positive needs emphasis, celebration and profile, and the strength, professionalism and expertise of the College has so much to offer. I have a strong track record of delivery, collaborative working, and discipline wide experience, and would be very proud to serve my College.